

Senate File 133 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 133
BY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1008)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the requirements for a prescribing
2 psychologist or a psychologist with a conditional
3 prescription certificate.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 154B.1, subsections 3 and 5, Code 2023,
2 are amended to read as follows:

3 3. "*Collaborative relationship*" means a cooperative
4 working relationship between a prescribing psychologist or
5 a psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate
6 and a ~~licensed physician in the provision of patient primary~~
7 care provider as defined in section 280A.1 who oversees
8 the patient's general medical care, including diagnosis and
9 cooperation in the management and delivery of physical and
10 mental health care.

11 5. "*Physician*" means a person licensed to practice medicine
12 and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery in this state
13 ~~who is board-certified~~ in family medicine, internal medicine,
14 pediatrics, psychiatry, or another specialty who prescribes
15 medications for the treatment of a mental disorder to patients
16 in the normal course of the person's clinical medical practice
17 pursuant to joint rules adopted by the board of psychology and
18 the board of medicine.

19 Sec. 2. Section 154B.10, subsection 1, paragraphs d and e,
20 Code 2023, are amended to read as follows:

21 ~~d. Within five years immediately preceding the date of~~
22 ~~application, successfully~~ Successfully completed a postdoctoral
23 master of science degree in clinical psychopharmacology
24 approved by the board of psychology and the board of medicine
25 pursuant to joint rules adopted by both boards. The program
26 shall at a minimum include coursework in neuroscience,
27 pharmacology, psychopharmacology, physiology, and appropriate
28 and relevant physical and laboratory assessments.

29 ~~e. Within five years immediately preceding the date~~
30 ~~of application, has~~ Has been certified by the applicant's
31 supervising physician as having successfully completed a
32 supervised and relevant clinical experience in clinical
33 assessment and pathophysiology and an additional supervised
34 practicum treating patients with mental disorders. The
35 practica shall have been supervised by a trained physician.

1 The board of psychology and the board of medicine, pursuant to
2 joint rules adopted by the boards, shall determine sufficient
3 practica to competently train the applicant in the treatment of
4 a diverse patient population.

5 Sec. 3. Section 154B.12, subsection 2, Code 2023, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 2. When prescribing psychotropic medication for a patient,
8 the prescribing psychologist or the psychologist with a
9 conditional prescription certificate shall maintain an ongoing
10 collaborative relationship with the ~~licensed physician~~ primary
11 care provider as defined in section 280A.1 who oversees
12 the patient's general medical care to ensure that necessary
13 medical examinations are conducted, the psychotropic medication
14 is appropriate for the patient's medical condition, and
15 significant changes in the patient's medical or psychological
16 condition are discussed.

17 EXPLANATION

18 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
19 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

20 Under current law, to be granted a conditional prescription
21 certificate, an applicant who holds a current license to
22 practice psychology in the state, among other requirements,
23 must within five years immediately preceding the date of
24 application, have both successfully completed a postdoctoral
25 master of science degree in clinical psychopharmacology
26 approved by the board of psychology and the board of medicine,
27 and have been certified by the applicant's supervising
28 physician as having successfully completed a supervised
29 and relevant clinical experience in clinical assessment and
30 pathophysiology and an additional supervised practicum treating
31 patients with mental disorders. This bill retains both of
32 these requirements but eliminates the condition that these
33 requirements must have been completed within the five years
34 immediately preceding the date of application for a conditional
35 prescription certificate.

1 Current law requires that when prescribing psychotropic
2 medication for a patient, the prescribing psychologist or
3 the psychologist with a conditional prescription certificate
4 shall maintain an ongoing collaborative relationship with the
5 licensed physician in the provision of patient care. The bill
6 instead provides that the ongoing collaborative relationship
7 be with the patient's primary care provider who oversees the
8 patient's general medical care, rather than the patient's
9 licensed physician.

10 The bill also redefines "physician" for the purposes of Code
11 chapter 154B (psychology). Current law defines "physician"
12 to mean a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery
13 or osteopathic medicine and surgery in this state who is
14 board-certified in a speciality who prescribes medications
15 for the treatment of a mental disorder. The bill removes the
16 condition that the licensed person also be board-certified in
17 the speciality.